(b) The disposal is being monitored on monthly basis.

Identification of New Coal Mines

6. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether East Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation an agency of the power generating units in private sector has identified coal mines for domestic purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the places where these have been located;

(c) whether the Corporation has formulated a scheme to develop these mines to meet the requirements of coal for its power plants;

(d) if so, the amount likely to be spent thereon;

(e) whether the Union Government have accorded approval to this scheme; and

(f) if not, the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). A coal mine block namely, Sarshatali in the State of West Bengal, has been identified for captive mining by the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation for their power plants.

(c) to (f). The Integrated Coal Mining Pvt. Ltd. , an associate coal company of the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation had submitted a mining plan in respect of 'Sarshatali Block' as per the Statutory requirement for obtaining the approval of the Central Government.

The mining plan does not contain any details of the likely amount to be spent by the company on the development of mines. However, the company has paid an exploration cost of Rs.1.65 crores to Coal India Ltd. for obtaining the geological report on the Sarshtali block. The Central Government has since considered the mining plan and has communicated its approval of the same to the Integrated Coal Mining Pvt. Ltd.

Pollution by Flyash

7. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated flyash thrown up yearly by coal based thermal plant and its projection by 2000 AD and its effect on pollution of ground water;

(b) the details of observations/recommendations made and action taken by the union authorities and State Electricity Boards thereon; and

(c) whether technological options are available to convert the waste into useful products and working group constituted in 1990 made a number of recommendations on disposal of Flyash in the national interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The estimated fly ash thrown up annually by coal based thermal power stations in the country is 50 Million tonnes and its projection by 2000 AD is 100 million tonnes.

Inorganic substances contained in fly ash can pollute ground water due to seepage and overflow of ash water into ground water/rivers/sea and agricultural fields etc., if it is not disposed of at sites considered safe for the purpose.

(b) It has been observed that fly ash can cause environmental pollution both at plant site and enroute to dumps and through seepage and overflow of ash water. To minimise such adverse effect, guidelines have been issued which inter-alia provide for dry ash collection, fuller utilisation of ash including in the brick and cement manufacture and covering blocks of ash deposited with vegetation.

(c) Yes, Sir. A Working Group on utilisation of fly ash set up by the Ministry of Power has made a number of recommendations on disposal/utilisation of fly ash. Various technological options are now available to convert fly ash into useful products. These include use of flyash in bricks and cement making, and land fills and in the preparation of base and sub-base courses in road laying, besides for soil improvement.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies

8. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the IBP company proposes to start the sale of LPG in the country during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which it is likely to meet the increasing demand of LPG; and

(d) the details of further steps proposed to be taken by the Government to deal with the LPG problem expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Government has recently authorised IBP for marketing of LPG from the current year i.e. 1996-97. IBP is exploring the possibility of commencing marketing of LPG during the current year and accordingly formulating required plans.

(d) Plans have been drawn to undertake accelerated new LPG enrolments in the future years in